
A recent report which evaluates how developing countries tackle hunger is sharply critical of India. Despite being one of the world's emerging economies, there are 30 million more hungry people in India than there were in the 1990s. Sanjoy Majumder reports:

India may be one of the world's fastest growing economies but **the benefit of its growing prosperity is not reaching everyone**. According to the ActionAid report, 46% of its children are **malnourished** and the number of people growing hungry is increasing instead of coming down.

It's not that India doesn't grow enough food - in fact it's **a major exporter of farm produce**. The problem is that many people, especially poor communities, cannot access it for **a variety of reasons**, including rising food prices and **poor distribution**.

Government schemes, such as mandatory school meals, have not been effectively implemented across the country. And large-scale migration of people seeking work or **displaced by** large development schemes, such as dams or industrial projects, is **adding to the problem**. Invariably women and children are the most vulnerable.

But there are some positive signs. A **landmark** rural jobs programme launched four years ago is showing some signs of success in **battling** poverty. Analysts say it now needs to **be persisted with and spread out to more parts of the country**.

Sanjoy Majumder, BBC News, Delhi

Vocabulary and definitions

the benefit of its growing prosperity is not reaching everyone	not all people in India are living better as a result of the country's fast economic growth and increasing wealth
malnourished	weak and unhealthy because they don't eat enough
a major exporter of farm produce	one of the countries that sell a lot of agricultural products abroad
a variety of	many different
poor distribution	here, when food is supplied irregularly and/or unevenly, without a proper system
displaced by	forced to leave where they normally lived because of
adding to the problem	another factor that makes the problem even more serious
landmark	very important, highly significant
battling	fighting, dealing with, overcoming
be persisted with and spread out to more parts of the country	continue to be implemented/put into practice, as well as introduced in other parts of India

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/8309979.stm>

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/wordsinthenews/2009/10/091016_witn_india_hunger.shtml